

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 EB-07 EPG-02 TRSE-00 STR-04 OMB-01

CEA-01 COME-00 /075 W

-----140723Z 104033 /11

R 130910Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7728

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 2054

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ASEAN

SUBJECT: PRIMACY OF FOREIGN MINISTERS IN HANDLING ASEAN AFFAIRS

1. MFA POLITICAL DIVISION DIRECTOR TAN BOON SENG TOLD CHARGE DURING MEETING MAY 12 THAT ASEAN SENIOR OFFICIALS HAD MET IN JAKARTA TWO WEEKS AGO AND HAD FINALLY SETTLED ONE OF THEIR THORNIEST PROBLEMS WHICH FOR A WHILE HAD THREATENED TO BRING ASEAN TO A GRINDING HALT. HE SAID HE WAS SURE I WAS AWARE OF THE CONFLICT FOR PRIMACY BETWEEN THE FOREIGN AND ECONOMIC MINISTERIES OF THE VARIOUS ASEAN GOVERNMENTS WITH RESPECT TO ASEAN AFFAIRS. HE SAID THIS ISSUE HAD CAUSED GREATER CONCERN IN SOME ASEAN CAPITALS THAN OTHERS AND IMPLIED THAT THIS HAD NOT BEEN A SERIOUS ISSUE WITHIN THE GOS. FORTUNATELY JAKARTA MEETING HAD FINALLY REACHED AGREEMENT THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTERS WOULD HAVE THE "FINAL SAY" OR RIGHT OF REVIEW ON ALL ASEAN MATTERS, BUT THAT ON ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL SUBJECTS THERE WOULD BE APPROPRIATE PARTICIPATION BY OFFICIALS FROM THE RELEVANT MINISTRIES.

2. TAN SAID IT HAD ALSO BEEN AGREED AT JAKARTA THAT IN MEETINGS BETWEEN ASEAN AND THIRD COUNTRIES THE FOREIGN
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MINISTER OR HIS DESIGNEE WITHIN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY WOULD LEAD THE ASEAN DELEGATION. TAN ADMITTED THAT THIS AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED BETWEEN OFFICIALS PRIMARILY REPRESENTING THE FOREIGN MINISTRIES OF THE ASEAN COUNTRIES, AND THAT IT WAS THEREFORE SUBJECT TO REVIEW AND APPROVAL BY EACH GOVERNMENT. HOWEVER, HE SEEMED FAIRLY CONFIDENT THAT THE AGREEMENT WOULD HOLD. TAN DID NOT SEEM TO BE AWARE THAT

THERE HAD BEEN TALKS IN MANILA ON THE SAME ISSUE WITH RESPECT
TO THE FORTHCOMING U.S./ASEAN ECONOMIC CONSULTATIONS AND
CHARGE REFRAINED FROM MENTIONING THESE DISCUSSIONS.
GRANT

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETINGS, ORGANIZATION & MANAGEMENT, REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: GS
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Litigation History:
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